

MINISTERIE VAN ONDERWIJS, KUNSTEN EN WETENSCHAPPEN

ZOOLOGISCHE MEDEDELINGEN

UITGEGEVEN DOOR HET

RIJKSMUSEUM VAN NATUURLIJKE HISTORIE TE LEIDEN

DEEL XXXIV, No. 2

28 September 1955

**THE DATES OF PUBLICATION OF "VERHANDELINGEN
OVER DE NATUURLIJKE GESCHIEDENIS DER NEDER-
LANDSCHE OVERZEESCHE BEZITTINGEN"**

EDITED BY C. J. TEMMINCK

by

A. M. HUSSON and L. B. HOLTHUIS

(Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden)

I. HISTORICAL.

In the first half of the previous century the Netherlands government took a great interest in stimulating the scientific exploration of the Netherlands East Indies. In 1820 a "Natuurkundige Commissie voor Nederlandsch-Indië" (Natural History Commission for the Netherlands Indies; hereafter indicated as "Indies Commission") was installed and given the task to travel in the Dutch possessions in the East Indies with the object to extend the scientific knowledge of the natural productions of that region. The Indies Commission, which existed from 29 April 1820 to 17 April 1850, consisted of the following scientists (the dates behind the names indicate the time spent in the Indies as member of the Commission, the end of the stay marked with a † if caused by death): H. Kuhl December 1820 - 14 September 1821 †, J. C. van Hasselt December 1820 - 8 September 1823 †, G. van Raalten December 1820 - 17 April 1829 †, H. Boie 6 June 1826 - 4 September 1827 †, H. C. Macklot 6 June 1826 - 12 May 1832 †, S. Müller 6 June 1826 - February 1836, A. Zippelius April 1827 - 31 December 1828 †, P. Diard January or February 1828 - 1841, P. W. Korthals about May 1831 - February 1836, L. Horner about July 1835 - 7 December 1838 †, E. A. Forsten 14 December 1838 - 3 January 1843 †, F. W. Junghuhn 1837 and 25 May 1845 - 1848, C. A. L. M. Schwaner about August 1842 - 30 March 1851 †, and the following artists and technicians: J. Keultjes December 1820 - 16 September 1821 †, P. van Oort 6 June 1826 - 24 September 1834 †, D. H. R. van Gelder about May

1831 - about 1838, B. N. Overdijk about May 1831 - about 1838, H. von Gaf-
fron January 1840 - ?. The zoological collections made by the Indies Commis-
sion were to be stored in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Lei-
den, which was founded by Royal Decree of 9 August 1820, no. 75. The
botanical collections made by the Commission formed the basis for the Rijks-
herbarium (State Herbarium), which was established 31 March 1829 in
Brussels and one year later transferred to Leiden. It stands to reason that
Coenraad Jacob Temminck, the first director of the Leiden Museum, was
highly interested in the work of the Commission and that he did everything
to make this work as successful as possible; actually he formed the great
pushing power behind the Commission. For a long time the scientific results
of the explorations of the Indies Commission were published in various
widely scattered places, and it was not until 1837 that a second Commission
(here named the Dutch Commission) was formed consisting of three
scientists (C. J. Temminck and the two Leiden professors C. G. C. Rein-
wardt and C. L. Blume) to supervise in Holland the storage and the study
of the collections brought together by the Indies Commission. On the in-
stigation of this Dutch Commission the Netherlands Government (under
the Royal Decree of 10 February 1839, no. 101) agreed to publish a work
in which the results of the explorations of the Indies Commission would
be dealt with. Temminck was entrusted with the general editorship of this
publication, while J. A. Susanna, the administrator of the Leiden Museum,
was in charge of the administrative side of the publication and also fulfilled
editorial duties. This work, which was entitled "Verhandelingen over de
Natuurlijke Geschiedenis der Nederlandsche Overzeesche Bezittingen"
(Transactions on the Natural History of the Netherlands Overseas Posses-
sions), was published in 29 parts between 1839 and 1847. The contents of
this work and the dates of publication of its various parts will be discussed
below.

II. CONTENTS OF THE VERHANDELINGEN.

The "groot natuurkundig werk over 's Rijks overzeesche bezittingen"
(large natural history publication on the Dutch overseas possessions), as
Temminck in his letters generally indicated the work under consideration,
was divided into three volumes: "Zoologie", "Botanie", and "Land- en Vol-
kenkunde" (the last named dealing with geography and ethnography). The
complete first title page of the Zoology volume runs as follows: "Verhan-
delingen / over / de Natuurlijke Geschiedenis / der / Nederlandsche over-
zeesche bezittingen, / door / de Leden der Natuurkundige commissie in Indië
/ en andere Schrijvers. | Uitgegeven / op Last van den Koning | door | C. J.

Temminck. / Zoologie. / Geredigeerd door J. A. Susanna, Gedrukt door J. G. la Lau. / Leiden / In Commissie bij S. en J. Luchtmans en C. C. van der Hoek. / 1839 - 1844. / Gedr. in het Lithogr. Instituut van A. Arnz & Co. te Leiden." The first title pages of the two other volumes are exactly identical to that of the zoology volume, with the exception of the word "Zoologie.", which is replaced there by "Botanie." and "Land- en Volkenkunde." respectively, while furthermore in the title of the Botany volume the dates are given as "1839-1842".

The text of the Zoology volume consists of a "Voorberigt" (Preface) of two unnumbered pages signed by C. G. C. Reinwardt, C. J. Temminck, C. L. Blume and J. van der Hoeven, and dated Leiden, 12 December 1839, followed by 6 sections each with a separate pagination. The first of these sections is the introduction by Salomon Müller entitled "Over de Zoogdieren van den Indischen Archipel" (On the Mammals of the Indian Archipelago) (pp. 1-57 and 6 unnumbered pages containing tables). The other five sections deal with the Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia, Pisces, and Insecta respectively. The Mammal section (pp. 1-228, pls. 1-45, 7 bis, 10 bis, 12 bis, 28 bis) contains 15 different papers, the Aves section (pp. 1-71, pls. 1-11, 4 bis, I, II) 6 papers, the Reptile section (pp. 1-72, pls. 1-10) 7 papers, the Pisces section (pp. 1-26, pls. 1-6) 3 papers. All these papers, with the exception of one on the anatomy of *Simia satyrus* L. by G. Sandifort, have as their authors S. Müller & H. Schlegel, or H. Schlegel & S. Müller. An index of 2 unnumbered pages to the vertebrate names used in the Zoology volume is inserted after the Pisces section. The Insect section (pp. 1-248, pls. 1-23), the last section of the Zoology volume, consists of two papers, both written by W. de Haan. It must be noted that in the Aves section two sets of pls. 1 and 2 (showing *Pitta Boschii* and *Pitta Baudii* respectively) have been published. The cause of this is mentioned in a letter of 11 November 1844 no. 83/1146 by Temminck to the Minister of Internal Affairs in which the former complains about the poor quality of the paint used for the colouring of the first two published plates, which caused the red colour to rapidly fade away. Temminck thought it to be his duty to provide the subscribers of the work with substitute plates and had entirely new plates of the same two species of birds made. To distinguish these new plates from the first published set, the latter are indicated here with the arabic numerals 1 and 2, the former with the roman numerals I and II. There exists one more plate for the Aves section, which has been printed and coloured, but never has been published. The full stock of this plate (about 250 copies) still is present in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie. It represents a bird of prey which is named in the inscription "*Falco*

(*Milvus religiosus*"¹). This plate bears the number 8 and evidently was intended to follow plate 7 of the Aves section showing another bird of prey named there *Falco (Pernis) ptilonorhynchus* (sic). It is not known for which reason the plate has been suppressed, perhaps, like pls. 1 and 2, it showed some serious defects. However, the plate has not been substituted and even no text on the species represented on this plate has been published in the Zoology volume. The published pl. 8 of the Aves section shows some honey-eaters, the text on which immediately follows the article on *Falco (Pernis) ptilonorhynchus*.

The Botany volume, following the main title page shows a second title page: "Kruidkunde, / door / P. W. Korthals." and an index of two unnumbered pages. This volume, the pages of which are consecutively numbered (pp. 1-259, pls. 1-70), contains 11 articles, all being written by P. W. Korthals.

The volume "Land- en Volkenkunde" also shows a second title page, this bears the inscription: "Land- en Volkenkunde, / door / Salomon Müller." It is followed by a table of contents (pp. iii-viii). The actual text has its pages consecutively numbered (pp. 1-472), it consists of five separate papers all of which are written by S. Müller. The plates are numbered 1-86 (on pl. 67, a map of Gedee (= Gedeh) mountain, no number is printed), while there are furthermore 4 unnumbered maps: (a) of the S. and S. W. coast of New Guinea, (b) of the western part of the island of Timor, (c) of the coast and the interior of Banjermasing (= Bandjermasin), Borneo, and (d) of Banjermasing, Martapoera and part of Lawut, Borneo. Plate 14 published in part no. 2 evidently was considered by Temminck to be of such poor quality that with part no. 5 a new plate (also with the number 14) was published to replace plate 14 of part no. 2. In the table given below the new plate 14 is indicated with an asterisk (14*).

In the Royal Decree of 15 April 1843, no. 57, it was laid down that the "Verhandelingen" should be published in parts, the number of which should not exceed 26. These parts, according to the Royal Decree of 10 February 1839, no. 101, were to appear every three months and were printed in 250 copies. According to the folder announcing the publication of this work, each part should contain 10 plates plus some text, a practice which was adopted

1) This plate contains 4 figures; fig. 1 shows the bird in side view, figs. 2 and 3 show the head in side and dorsal view respectively, and fig. 4 represents a leg. Dr. G. C. A. Junge, curator of the division of birds of the Leiden Museum, kindly informed us that the bird shown on this unpublished plate represents an immature specimen of *Haliastur indus intermedius* Blyth, 1865. A mounted specimen of that form in the collection of the Leiden Museum, collected by S. Müller at Padang, Sumatra, shows such a strong resemblance to the figure that it seems very probable that the figure has been made after this specimen.

practically throughout the publication, only the last published parts having far fewer than 10 plates. The parts received a double set of numbers: firstly all the parts were consecutively numbered according to the order of their publication, these numbers are indicated hereafter as "general part numbers" or "gen. pt. nos."; secondly the parts of each volume were separately numbered. So the Zoology parts nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 have the general part nos. 1, 4, 6, and 9 respectively.

The existence of general part nos. 24 bis, 24 bis cont'd, and 26 bis (= Zoology nos. 11 and 12, and Land- en Volkenkunde no. 10 respectively) seems rather senseless, but it is explained by the fact that Temminck, in order not to disobey the Royal Decree that restricted the number of parts to 26, used these awkward numbers instead of 27, 28, and 29.

III. DATES OF PUBLICATION.

The exact dates of publication of the text and of the plates of the *Verhandelingen* are of great importance since this work contains the descriptions of a large number of new forms. Several attempts have been made to ascertain these dates. Sherborn (1922, p. lxxviii) published the dates of publication of the text of the Zoology volume; his sources are unknown to us. Mathews (1912, p. 24), who possessed a copy of the "Land- en Volkenkunde" volume with the original wrappers, published the dates of publication of the text of that volume. Finally De Wit (1950, pp. 164-165), who obtained his information from the dates on which the Rijksarchief (Netherlands State Archives) in The Hague had received its parts, deals with these dates of the botany volume. The information given by De Wit has been republished by Van Steenis-Kruseman & Stearn (1954, p. cxcii).

The first author of the present paper (Husson) during a study of New Guinea mammals repeatedly had to consult both the Zoologie and the Land- en Volkenkunde volumes of the *Verhandelingen*. Because of some discrepancies, he started soon to become suspicious of the correctness of the dates of publication for the zoology volume as given by Sherborn. In collaboration with the second author (Holthuis) a search for further information was made in the archives of the Leiden Museum. As a result of this search it now is possible to publish here the exact date of publication for all of the text and the plates of three volumes.

A very important source of information proved to be formed by the wrappers of the various parts, since on these wrappers the exact contents of the part to which they belong and the year of publication is indicated. A set of practically all the wrappers is still in the possession of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden, only those of three parts (Zool-

ogy 8/9 and Land- en Volkenkunde nos. 7 and 10) are missing. The contents of the text of the Land- en Volkenkunde parts has been given by Mathews, while that of the Zoology part 8/9 could be found by subtracting from the total text the pages included in the other parts. In Susanna's very carefully kept administration of the "Verhandelingen", which still is preserved in the archives of the Leiden Museum, a complete list of the parts with the indication of the plates contained in each was found. In this way we could ascertain the exact contents of each of the parts of the entire work. In the administration of this publication, we furthermore found lists giving the dates on which the copies of each of the parts had been sent out, so that it became possible to fix the exact day of publication of each of the parts. A copy of the first general part (being Zoology no. 1) was personally presented by Salomon Müller to Willem I, King of the Netherlands, on Wednesday 18 December, 1839, on which day therefore the publication of the "Verhandelingen" started. The following tables give the information as to the dates of publication of the various parts of this work as found by us.

Zoologie

No. 1 (gen. pt. no. 1), December 18, 1839: Preface (2 unnumbered pages); Introduction, pp. 1-8 (sheets 1, 2); Mammalia, pp. 1-8 (sheets 1, 2), pls. 1-3, 17; Aves, pp. 1-12 (sheets 1-3), pls. 1-3; Reptilia, pp. 1-8 (sheets 1, 2), pls. 1-3.

No. 2 (gen. pt. no. 4), April 24, 1840: Introduction, pp. 9-57 and six unnumbered pages (sheets 3-15 and one unnumbered sheet); Mammalia, pls. 4-6, 8-12; Reptilia, pl. 4; Pisces, pl. 1.

No. 3 (gen. pt. no. 6), November 13, 1840: Insecta, pp. 1-44 (sheets 1-11), pls. 1-10.

No. 4 (gen. pt. no. 9), March 13, 1841: Mammalia, pp. 9-56 (sheets 3-14), pls. 7, 7 bis, 19-24; Aves, pl. 4; Reptilia, pl. 5.

No. 5 (gen. pt. no. 13), October 11, 1841: Mammalia, pp. 57-84 (sheets 15-21), pls. 13-16, 18, 32; Aves, pls. 5-7; Reptilia, pp. 9-28 (sheets 3-7), pl. 6.

No. 6 (gen. pt. no. 16), July 22, 1842: Insecta, pp. 45-124 (sheets 12-31), pls. 11-20.

No. 7 (gen. pt. no. 18), November 11, 1842: Mammalia, pls. 10 bis, 33-35, 38, 44, 45; Aves, pl. 4 bis; Reptilia, pl. 7; Pisces, pl. 3; Insecta, pp. 125-164 (sheets 32-41).

Nos. 8/9 (gen. pt. nos. 19/20), May 10, 1843: Mammalia, pls. 12 bis, 25-28, 28 bis, 29-31, 36, 37, 39-43; Reptilia, pls. 8-10; Pisces, pl. 2; Insecta, pp. 165-228 (sheets 42-57).

No. 10 (gen. pt. no. 24), March 22, 1844: Mammalia, pp. 85-100 (sheets 22-25); Aves, pls. 8-11; Pisces, pls. 4-6; Insecta, pp. 229-248 (sheets 58-62), pls. 21-23.

No. 11 (gen. pt. no. 24 bis), June 26, 1845: Mammalia, pp. 101-168 (sheets 26-42); Aves, pp. 13-24 (sheets 4-6), pls. I, II.

No. 12 (gen. pt. no. 24 bis cont'd), June 26, 1845: first title page; Mammalia, pp. 169-228 (sheets 43-57); Aves, pp. 25-72 (sheets 7-18); Reptilia, pp. 29-72 (sheets 8-18); Pisces, pp. 1-26 (sheets 1-7); Index of 2 unnumbered pages to the vertebrate names.

Botanie

No. 1 (gen. pt. no. 2), February 3, 1840: pp. 1-28 (sheets 1-7), pls. 1-10.

No. 2 (gen. pt. no. 5), July 1, 1840: pp. 29-60 (sheets 8-15), pls. 11-17, 19, 20.

No. 3 (gen. pt. no. 10), May 25, 1841: pp. 61-92 (sheets 16-23), pls. 18, 21-30.

No. 4 (gen. pt. no. 12), August 16, 1841: pp. 93-124 (sheets 24-31), pls. 31-40.

No. 5 (gen. pt. no. 14), February 14, 1842: pp. 125-156 (sheets 32-39), pls. 41-46, 48, 50, 53, 58.

No. 6 (gen. pt. no. 17), October 18, 1842: pp. 157-196 (sheets 40-49), pls. 47, 49, 51, 52, 55-57, 59, 60, 64.

No. 7 (gen. pt. no. 23), February 15, 1844: pp. 197-259 (sheets 50-65), pls. 54, 61-63, 65-70; first title page; second title page and Index (of 2 unnumbered pages).

Land- en Volkenkunde

No. 1 (gen. pt. no. 3), March 21, 1840: pp. 1-32 (sheets 1-8), pls. 1-8, map: New Guinea.

No. 2 (gen. pt. no. 7), September 15, 1840: pp. 33-64 (sheets 9-16), pls. 9-18.

No. 3 (gen. pt. no. 8), February 13, 1841: pp. 65-96 (sheets 17-24), pls. 19-26, 28, 34.

No. 4 (gen. pt. no. 11), August 16, 1841: pp. 97-128 (sheets 25-32), pls. 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 41, 42, 46, 47.

No. 5 (gen. pt. no. 15), March 30, 1842: pp. 129-160 (sheets 33-40), pls. 14*, 31, 36-40, 43, 45, map: Timor.

No. 6 (gen. pt. no. 21), June 12, 1843: pp. 161-192 (sheets 41-48), pls. 48-50, 54, 55, 58, 60, 70, 83, map: Mt. Gedeh.

No. 7 (gen. pt. no. 22), January 30, 1844: pp. 193-224 (sheets 49-56), pls. 51-53, 56, 57, 59, 64-66, 74.

No. 8 (gen. pt. no. 25), September 20, 1845: pp. 225-256 (sheets 57-64), pls. 62, 63, 68, 71-73, 75-78.

No. 9 (gen. pt. no. 26), December 23, 1845: pp. 257-280 (sheets 65-70), pls. 61, 69, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 2 maps: S. E. Borneo.

No. 10 (gen. pt. no. 26 bis), December 24, 1847: pp. 281-472 (sheets 71-118), pls. 81, 86; first title page; second title page and table of contents (= pp. i-viii) (sheets * + **).

Comparing this information with that which has already been published, we find, as far as the Zoologie and Land- en Volkenkunde volumes are concerned, that (a) one minor correction in Mathews's list and a few important corrections in Sherborn's dates are necessary, (b) the dates of publication of the plates of both volumes now can be given, and (c) the day instead of the year of publication is now known. It is to be noted that the year 1843 given on the wrapper of Land- en Volkenkunde part 7 is erroneous since this part was distributed on 30 January 1844. The small differences in the dates from De Wit's list for the Botanie volume are due to the fact that the day on which the Netherlands State Archives received their copies (on which dates De Wit based himself) necessarily are slightly later than the dates on which the copies were actually sent out.

REFERENCES

- MATHEWS, G. M., 1912. Dates of issue of Lear's illustr. Psittacidae and of the Verhandelingen over de Natuurlijke Geschiedenis.: Land- en Volkenkunde. The Austral Avian Record, vol. 1, pp. 23-24.
- SHERBORN, C. D., 1922. Index Animalium. London, Sectio secunda, part 1. Introduction, bibliography and Index A — Aff., pp. vii — cxxxix, 1-128.
- STENIS-KRUSEMAN, M. J. VAN & W. T. STEARN, 1954. Dates of publication. In: Flora Malesiana, ser. 1, vol. 4, pp. clxiii-ccxix.
- WIT, H. C. D. DE, 1950. Dates of publication of Malaysian phytotaxonomical literature. Korthals, P. W., Kruidkunde. 7 Instalments, 1840-1844. Flora Malesiana Bulletin, no. 6, pp. 164-165.